THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The 5% cut in the Central Plan Expenditure (excluding externally aided projects) is expected to lead to a saving of about Rs. 1800 crores. This amount to 0.16% of GDP at market prices in 1995-96. At the current level of GDP the proportion would be even lower.

Autonomy to Navaratnas

536. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to grant full autonomy to the Navaratnas among public sector enterprises;

(b) if so, the areas of management in respect of which such autonomy is proposed to be granted;

(c) whether these enterprises are proposed to be taken out of the purview of Government vigilance, audit and investigating agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Government have, subject to certain guidelines and stipulations, granted enhanced financial, functional and operational autonomy to Navaratna PSUs inter-alia to incur capital expenditure, to enter into joint ventures, to set up strategic and technological alliances, to raise funds from capital markets, to formulate and implement the schemes of human resources management etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Industrial policy for the North-eastern region

537. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering formulation of a separate Industrial Policy for the north-eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details and salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be arrived at in this regard;

(d) the details of benefits expected from this policy; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The matter is under active consideration of the Government and will be announced very soon.

Review of power projects by FIPB

538. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major power projects pending for review before Foreign Investment Promotion Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date since pending;

(c) the number of projects cleared by the Board so far; and

(d) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be cleared by the Board?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) At present, no proposal relating to power projects is before the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) for review. However, the following proposals